

1 Kings 8:54

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

Analysis

And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of dedication of the temple, within the book's focus on Solomon's wisdom, temple building, and tragic apostasy. The sacrificial system points forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice, fulfilling all temple offerings (Hebrews 10:1-18).

The Hebrew text reveals nuances important for understanding this passage's contribution to 1 Kings' theological message about kingship, covenant, and faithfulness to Yahweh. This verse demonstrates the consequences when God's people—especially their leaders—either follow or forsake the covenant established at Sinai.

Historical Context

First Kings was written during or after the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE), reflecting on the monarchy period (10th-9th centuries BCE) to explain why the kingdoms fell. Solomon's reign (c. 970-930 BCE) represented Israel's golden age of

peace and prosperity.

Ancient Near Eastern kingship ideology viewed kings as divine representatives responsible for maintaining cosmic order through right worship. Archaeological discoveries from sites like Megiddo, Hazor, and Samaria confirm the historical reliability of 1 Kings' descriptions of building projects and administrative structures.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the temple as God's dwelling place help us understand Christ's incarnation and the church as God's temple today?
2. What does Solomon's prayer and dedication teach about approaching God in worship and prayer?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּה יוֹ	כָּכַל וְ	שָׁלֹמֹה ה	לְהִתְפַּלֵּל	אֵל		
H1961	had made an end	And it was so that when Solomon	of praying	H413		
	H3615	H8010	H6419			
יְהוָה	אֵת	כָּל הַ	וְהִתְחַנֵּה ה	הָאֵל אֶת	קָם	
of the LORD	H853	H3605	all this prayer	and supplication	H2063	he arose
H3068		H8605	H8467		H6965	
מִלִּפְנֵי י	מִזְבֵּחַ ה	יְהוָה	מִקִּרְיָ ע	עַל	בְּרֻכָּיו יוֹ	
from before	the altar	of the LORD	from kneeling	H5921	on his knees	
H6440	H4196	H3068	H3766		H1290	
וּכְפָּיו יוֹ	פָּרֹשׂ וְ	הַשָּׁמַיִם:				
with his hands	spread up	to heaven				
H3709	H6566	H8064				

Additional Cross-References

Luke 22:45 (Prayer): And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow,

2 Chronicles 7:1 (Prayer): Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

Psalms 95:6 (References Lord): O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.